

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36. Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, First Paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph as being indefinite. Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36 are patentable and respectfully request reconsideration of the claims in light of the above presented clarifying amendments and following remarks. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the clarifying amendments. After entry of this Preliminary Amendment, Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36 remain pending.

1. 35 U.S.C. § 112 First Paragraph Rejection to Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36

In rejecting Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36, under § 112, First Paragraph the Examiner asserts that the Claims contain subject matter that was not described in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor possessed the claimed invention at the time the patent application was filed. More specifically, the Examiner asserts that the cutting limitation recited in Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36 constitutes new matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection and respectfully assert that the originally filed Specification discloses the cutting limitation.

The Specification discloses the cutting limitation and describes the cutting limitation in a manner that reasonably conveys that Applicants possessed the claimed invention when Applicant filed the patent application. Specifically, the originally filed Specification discloses cutting on page 2, lines 11-17; page 4, lines 11-13; page 6, lines 2-3; page 9, lines 7-10; and page 16, lines 8-9. These various disclosures discuss and detail how a sheet of base material may be cut to

form a predetermined portion of base material. For example, lines 2-3 on page 6 provide that the "base material 18 should be easily cut with scissors or by any cutting tool," and lines 7-10 on page 9 provide, "Fig. 6 best illustrates with broken lines the portions 28 and 30 which may be removed by cutting out portions of the arts and crafts material 10 with scissors (not shown) or by other known means such as stamping." Applicants respectfully assert that the cutting limitation is not new matter because the Specification in the above listed areas discloses that a base material may be cut to form a predetermined portion. Applicants, therefore, respectfully assert that Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36 are patentable under § 112, First Paragraph and respectfully request that the § 112, First Paragraph rejection to these claims be withdrawn.

2. 35 U.S.C. § 112 Second Paragraph Rejection to Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36

In rejecting Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36, under § 112, Second Paragraph, the Examiner asserts that the recitation of "portion" in independent Claims 10, 23, and 31 is indefinite. Applicants have amended Claims 10, 23, and 31 to clarify Applicants' claimed invention with regard to removing a predetermined shaped portion.

As amended, Claims 10, 23, and 31 clarify that the removed portion comprises base material and base material coating. In other words, and with reference to Figs. 6 and 7, after a sheet of base material is cut forming a predetermined portion or shape, the portion or shape is removed from the sheet of base material. Figure 6 depicts a sheet of base material with broken lines designating various shapes which may be cut and removed from the sheet of base material and Figure 7 depicts portions that have been removed from the sheet of base material. As amended, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 10, 23, and 31 are patentable under § 112, Second Paragraph because these claims have been clarified to recite that the removed portion

comprises base material and base material coating. Withdrawal of the § 112, Second Paragraph rejection to these claims is respectfully requested.

3. Clarifying Amendments

Applicants respectfully assert that the Specification supports and discloses the clarifying amendments presented in this Preliminary Amendment. Regarding the clarifying amendments to Claims 10, 23 and 31, pages 6-8 and FIGs. 1-3 disclose a base material 18 having a surface 2 bounded by a perimeter 4, and a coating 16 applied to the entirety of or substantially all of the base material surface 2 bounded by the base material perimeter 4. In accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.84 and 1.121, Applicants submit herewith Amendments to the Specification and Drawings to disclose and support these clarifying claim amendments. Applicants respectfully submit that these amendments do not introduce any new matter; instead these amendments further clarify Applicants' claimed invention.

4. Previous Office Action and Response

Applicants note that the Final Office Action removed the rejections cited in the previous Office Action in response to Applicants' previously filed response. Applicants, therefore, respectfully assert that the previous arguments and claim amendments place the Application in condition for allowance over the previously cited references.

FEES

Applicants file this Preliminary Amendment along with a Request for Continued Examination within five (5) months of the Final Office Action. So, Applicants submit herewith a petition for a two-month time extension and a check to cover the RCE fee (\$385.00) and the two-month time extension fee (\$210.00). No other fees are believed due, but the Commissioner

is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment, to
Deposit Account No. 20-1507.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is a complete response to the Final Office Action mailed 23 March 2004. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 10, 12-13, and 22-36 are patentable and respectfully requests passing of this case in due course of patent office business. If the Examiner believes there are other issues that can be resolved by a telephone interview, or there are any informalities remaining in the application which may be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to Hunter Yancey at (404) 885-3696 would be welcomed.

Respectfully submitted,

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Annotated Marked-up Drawing

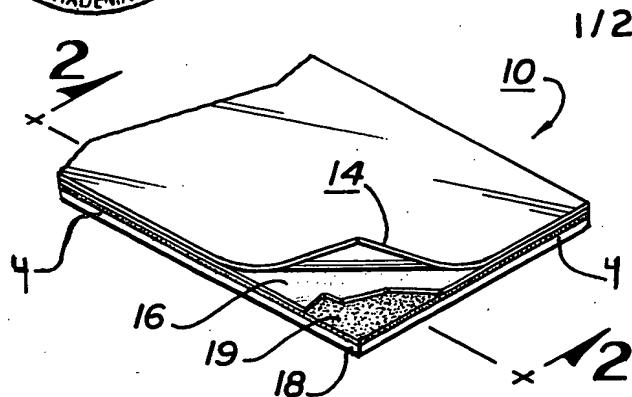


FIG 1

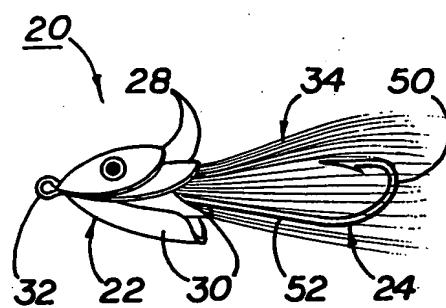


FIG 4

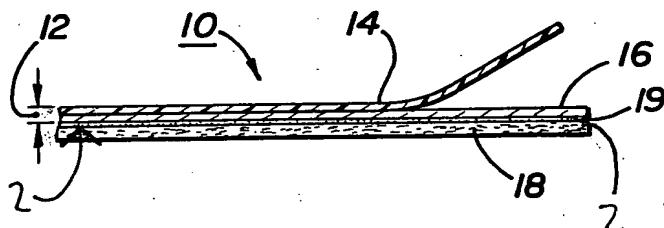


FIG 2

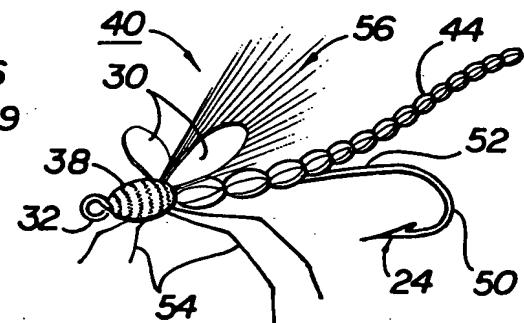


FIG 5

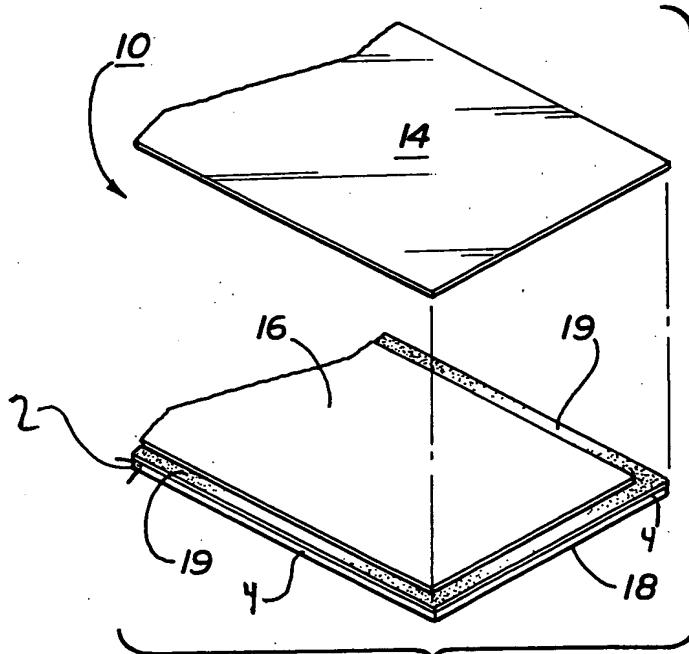


FIG 3

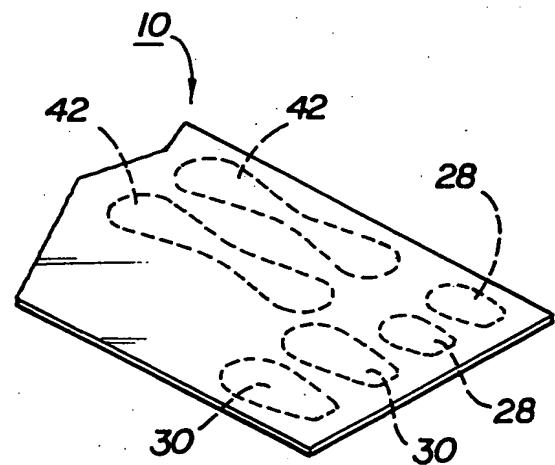


FIG 6